

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd March 1907.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hindusthan* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says that England is powerless to do anything to better the lot of the Indians in the British Colonies beyond friendly protests, and the offering of much excellent moral advice to the Colonial authorities, who seem not at all disposed to listen to them. The Indian cooly must always remain a cooly, and must on no account be permitted to turn independent citizens, they say. When the African slave trade was abolished, England undertook to furnish coolies from India, and therefore finds it impracticable now to do anything in their behalf. If the Indians in the Colonies can redress their own grievances, or if a Canning again comes to India as Viceroy, then, and not till then, will better days dawn upon them. It was Lord Canning who once discontinued cooly emigration.

HINDUSTHAN,
March 9th, 1907.

2. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 15th March writes as follows:—

The present political situation in the Muhammadan world.

If Persia joins hands with Turkey, and Afghanistan girds up its loins, England will be in great peril on account of India, even if she succeeds in occupying Egypt. The five crore Musalman inhabitants of India, again, may grow furious. Did Fuller's love for the Musalmans and the British Government's invitation to the Amir to visit India spring from a sense of this danger? If our surmise is correct, the fate of Egypt and Morocco will depend upon the attitude of the Musalmans of India and of the Amir of Afghanistan. In our opinion, the Musalmans should now lay aside all concerns such as quarrelling with the Hindus and seeking favour from the Government, and direct their attention exclusively to the danger and critical political situation which now faces the entire Musalman community of the world. The loss of Egypt and Morocco to the Musalmans will cause such serious harm to their community, as will not be compensated, to the extent of even a hundredth part, by the gain of hundreds of titles, and posts in India.

SAMAY,
March 15th, 1907.

3. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 16th March writes that the manner in

The Amir in India.

which the *feringhis* courted and flattered the Amir, and the airs of self-importance they put on, first suggested that the Amir was too strongly under *feringhi* influence. But a personal view of the Amir, of his sayings and of his movements subsequently convinced it that the Amir was not the man easily to succumb to the influence of evil spirits. The *feringhi*, evil spirit is congratulating himself that he has won, that he will henceforth be able to go to Kabul, but that is not to be. Evil spirits will not be permitted to dance there.

SANDHYA,
March 16th, 1907.

4. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 16th March thinks that it is not likely

The Amir and the English.

that the Amir will voluntarily injure the English, but if ever the interests of the Afghan Kingdom and the British Empire clash, then it is doubtful how far his friendship will stand the strain.

BASUMATI,
March 16th, 1907.

5. The *Hindusthan* [Calcutta] of the 16th March says that the visit of the

The Amir's visit to India.

Amir of Afghanistan will be productive of good, not only to the Government, but also to the Indians. The question of frontier defence will now become simpler, and so vast sums of money that used to be spent on that account will be saved. After the failure of the Dane Mission, Government was calmly waiting for another opportunity to gain its object. When the Amir came to India, that much-coveted opportunity came. Certainly it could not have been merely for the Amir's diversion that Lord Minto induced Lord Kitchener to become the driver of His Majesty's motor-car. When in a few years railway communication between India and Afghanistan will be established, it will then be seen what was the motive of the Government in gratifying the Amir, and how British diplomacy triumphed at last.

HINDUSTHAN,
March 16th, 1907.

6. Referring to the situation in Egypt, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March asks:—

The Egyptian question.

Why should not the British grant to Egypt what they have already granted to Australia and the Transvaal, viz., a separate and free Parliament and a free Constitution? What the Egyptians are doing cannot properly be called seditious. The truth is the more you try to coerce

BANGAVASI,
March 16th, 1907.

a people into submission and refuse to grant what they are entitled to get, the greater is the danger. In Russia the flames are only smouldering, the conflagration has yet to come. English rulers should never forget this fact.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

TAMALIKA,
March 3rd, 1907.

7. The *Tamaliika* [Tamluk] of the 9th March writes that on the 3rd March last, when a boy was grazing cattle by the river-side, a cannon ball fired from the Diamond Harbour Fort struck him, and the boy fell dead. Who is responsible for this sad accident? The attention of the authorities is drawn to this case.

KHULNAVASI,
March 9th, 1907.

8. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 9th March writes that the lives of the villagers of Deapara in the thana of Abhayaganar in Jessore are being seriously jeopardised by certain tigers infesting the forests in the neighbourhood.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 11th, 1907.

9. A correspondent writing to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says:—

The Comilla disturbances. What can be the cause of this sudden frenzy of the Muhammadans? We think the success of the recent District Conference at Comilla turned the heads of the officials. It was for that reason that the Government of Eastern Bengal conspired with the Nawab of Dacca and with the help of illiterate Muhammadans brought about this state of anarchy. Government has now come to see that we mean to attain *swaraj* by the *swadeshi* agitation and the boycott, and therefore wishes to nip the evil in the bud. It was for the accomplishment of this end that terrible oppressions at Barisal, Mymensingh and Serajganj recently occurred. But the Hindus have so long silently submitted to all this lawlessness in the expectation that redress will at last come from the law of the land. If anybody is to be held responsible for this anarchy, it is the authorities and no one else.

SANJIVANI,
March 14th, 1907.

10. To the query "Who are blameable for the anarchy at Comilla?" the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th March answers (1) the Nawab Salimulla, (2) the Magistrate and (3) the District Superintendent of Police.

SANJIVANI.

11. The same paper writes that people are feeling greatly amused at the manner in which the police are inquiring after the movements of Bepin Babu at Narainganj.

SANJIVANI.

12. The same paper writes that the Nawab Salimulla after returning secretly from Comilla is trying to stir up the Dacca Musalmans. A notice has been issued in the name of Khaja Muhammad Azam, the Nawab's brother-in-law, in which it is written that the Musalmans have been grossly maltreated by the Hindus at Comilla and that a number of Musalmans have been wounded and one made a *sahid* in the course of those acts of outrage. Now, a *sahid* is one who yields life for the sake of religion. The Nawab is playing with fire and the effects will be terrible.

NIHAR,
March 12th, 1907.

13. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 12th March calls on the police concerned to interfere and stop the gambling which has been going on for the past week or so at the *barwari* at Thakurnagar in Hendya thana.

SAMAY,
March 15th, 1907.

14. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 15th March says that a police constable on duty in the Strand Road, Calcutta, severely belaboured a *muchi* for having demanded remuneration for mending his shoes.

SAMAY.

15. Referring to the case in which Babu Priya Nath Mitra, Manager of the General Assembly's Institution Boarding House in Calcutta, was accused of having forcibly wrested away a prisoner who had, it was alleged, quarrelled with some hackney-carriage drivers, from the hands of a police constable, but who has

subsequently been acquitted by the Chief Presidency Magistrate of the city, the same paper says that the police committed great *zulm* in connexion with this case and in favour of the hackney-carriage drivers, because the latter systematically bribe policemen. Such *zulm* is frequent in the city. Priya Babu had the good fortune of being connected with the white missionaries of the General Assembly's Institution, otherwise the case might have assumed quite a different aspect.

16. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 16th March speaks of the too frequent use of false weights and measures in the bazars and shops in the northern part of the city of Calcutta, and of the necessity of some official preventive action being taken in this connexion.

BASUMATI,
March 16th, 1907.

False weights and measures in Calcutta.

17. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March draws the attention of the authorities to the case of dacoity near the Sheoraphuli railway station and very close to the thana. The dacoity took place in the house of one Din Mistri on the 14th March at night; but the police failed either to render any help to the householder at the time of the occurrence, or, subsequently, to trace the dacoits.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 16th, 1907.

A case of dacoity.

18. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 16th March writes that Basudha, Balghura, Dangal and certain other villages in the Kanksa thana of Burdwan are seriously suffering from the depredations of wild boars, which are destroying the potato and the sugar-cane crop and preventing the villagers from stirring out of their homes at night.

RATNAKAR,
March 16th, 1907.

Wild boars in certain villages in Burdwan.

19. The proposal of placing the village chaukidars under a special Deputy Collector in each district, writes the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March, will be productive of more evil than good. Under the present system the chaukidars care little for the villagers. The police had some control over them, and even this is now proposed to be withdrawn. The Deputy Collector himself will usually remain at Sadar, occasionally touring in the mufassal. This innovation will create greater mischief. The total abolition or at least some reduction of the chaukidari tax will greatly relieve the needy. But nobody appears to view the question from this standpoint.

BANGAVASI,
March 16th, 1907.

The proposed chaukidari reform.

(b)—Working of the courts.

20. Referring to the recent decision of Messrs. Justices Rampini and B. L. Gupta that a judgment passed on a Christain holiday in any case between non-Christain parties cannot be vitiated, and to a previous ruling that judgments passed at night are not illegal, the *Hindusthan* [Calcutta] of the 9th March writes:—

HINDUSTHAN,
March 9th, 1907.

A recent High Court ruling.

After this any Judge has the option to go on with his cases continually day and night all the year round, even Sundays not being excepted because Sundays are Christain holidays.

21. Referring to the conviction of several beggars by Mr. Kingsford, Chief Presidency Magistrate, on Saturday last, for the offence of begging at the New Market, one of whom was lame and the other an old man, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March writes that the punishment provided by law of street beggars, who are physically unfit for any kind of work, must be condemned as extremely barbarous, inasmuch as Government has yet done nothing for the maintenance of Indian beggars.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 11th, 1907.

Conviction of beggars at the Police Court.

22. A correspondent of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 14th March writes how, on the 8th idem, at Jessore, Babu Sures Chandra Deb Ray, Deputy Magistrate, wrongfully arrested Babu Mahendra Nath Dutt, M.A., in the course of a dispute arising out of the hiring of a *gharry* by an orderly peon of the Deputy Magistrate, and how when cases were lodged in Court respectively by the orderly peon against Mahendra Babu and the driver of the *gharry*, by Mahendra Babu against the Deputy Magistrate, and by the driver of the *gharry* against the Deputy Magistrate and his orderly peon, summons was issued and served in the first case in the course of a single day, whereas the two latter cases were postponed for hearing till the 16th idem.

SANDHYA,
March 14th, 1907.

A case against a Deputy Magistrate at Jessore.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 19th, 1907.

23. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th March says that the result of the appeal in the *Punjabee* case is not an unexpected one, considering the attitude of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, who refused to sanction the prosecution of the *Civil and Military Gazette*. The Sessions Judge no doubt received his cue from His Honour and gave his verdict accordingly. Under such circumstances it was idle to expect anything different from what has actually happened.

The *Punjabee* appeal case.

PALLIVASI,
March 20th, 1907.

24. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 20th March writes that the location of a second Munsiff's Court permanently at Kalna has become necessary, in view of the fact that in 1906 3,234 original cases were disposed of by the first Munsiff, which, calculating the working days of the year and the hours of each day devoted to Court work, gives only a bare 15 minutes to the consideration of each suit.

Wanted a second Munsiff at Kalna.

(d)—Education.

NIHAR,
March 12th, 1907.

25. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 12th March writes that one can easily understand how much the new University regulations regarding the minimum of marks necessary for passing the Matriculation Examination will make things difficult for the examinee of average merit. They will do more harm than good.

The University regulations.

SANJIVANI,
March 14th, 1907.

26. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th March writes that lately the school-house of the Jalpaiguri Zilla School was burnt down, and on coming to know of it, Mr Sharp held that the teachers of the institution did not know how to maintain discipline over their boys, and that accordingly they were all, as a punishment, to be made to take leave. Those who had privilege leave or furlough due to them, were to get leave on half pay, and those who had not, were to go away on leave without pay. But is this justice? Who is the guilty party and who is punished? Cases like these make one think that it is in China that one is living.

Jalpaiguri Zilla School.

SANJIVANI.

27. The same paper writes that the passages taken out of a speech of Gladstone that were set for translation into the candidate's mother-tongue this year at the Entrance Examination were so difficult to translate, as probably to defy even the efforts of Babu Chandra Nath Basu, the distinguished translator. Certain questions in Geography probably could not be answered, unless one had read the book on Geography by Mr. Arden Wood, who set the questions.

The Entrance Examination.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
March 8th, 1907.

28. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 16th March finds fault with the questions on History and Geography in the last Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University.

The Entrance Examination.

HITAVADI,
March 15th, 1907.

29. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March understands, from the reply which was given to the Honorable Babu J. C. Ghosh's question on primary education at the sitting of the Bengal Council on the 9th March, that Government is not prepared to agree to any large expenditure on primary education this year. This is most discreditable, and it is to be hoped that they will not take eternity to consider the question of making primary education free.

Primary education.

HITAVADI.

30. The same paper writes that it is difficult to refrain from laughter at the official replies to the Hon'ble Babu J. C. Ghosh's questions in Council regarding a Technical College. No statement was made as to whether arrangements for providing technical instruction were or were not possible to be made at the place to which the Sibpur College might be removed. One cannot understand why this evasive reply was given, and it is one which will naturally create suspicion in the public mind as to Government's intentions.

A Technical College for Bengal.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
March 18th, 1907.

31. How the questions put by the non-official members of the Bengal Legislative Council are dealt with by the official members thereof, in reply, can be well illustrated, says the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March, by the reply lately given by Hon'ble Mr. Richardson to a question asked by Babu Jogindra Chunder

The charges for female education in the Budget.

Ghosh, at the last meeting of the Council, to the question, that is, whether or not it was proper to show the estimated charges for female education under a separate head in the Budget this year. The reply purported that the matter would be looked into. Is this, the paper exclaims, a reply becoming the dignity of Government. It is like throwing a clod of earth (to stop the mouth of the questioner).

32. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 19th March publishes a letter, alleging that the Government aided Middle-English School at Haripur (Mugbarya post-office) is now being worked with only five teachers, that the school has not got a single servant, and that the school premises are accordingly dirty and unswept. The pay of the teachers are in arrears for periods varying from a month to a year.

NIHAR,
March 19th, 1907.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

33. The *Nadia* [Krishnagar] of the 9th March regrets that a Christian and a Musalman compounder have recently been appointed to the Krishnagar Charitable Dispensary, on the ground that their touch of water in dispensing medicines pollute the latter and make them unfit for use by orthodox Hindu patients seeking relief at the institution.

NADIA,
March 9th, 1907.

34. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 9th March writes that, in view of the cholera cases now occurring at Khulna town, the drains as well as the riverside road and the sweetmeat shops in the town, require careful looking after by the Municipality.

KHULNAVASI,
March 9th, 1907.

35. The *Marwari Bandhu* [Calcutta] of the 13th March regrets to notice that the Malik Ghât, a monument of the religious devotion of the Malik family, has gradually been getting out of existence, since the construction of the Howrah Bridge. It has partly been converted into the bridge itself, and partly made to form the site of the railway line and of the quarters for the officials. Only recently the ghât of Dina Dass Ghatwan has been forcibly appropriated, and his agent turned out therefrom. This happened during the former's absence at home, for medical treatment, on account of ill-health. The whole state of things points to the improper dealings of the Port Commissioners, who have been managing the matter by entering into correspondence with the heirs of the Malik family. Really, the thing is repugnant to Hindu religious feeling.

MARWARI BANDHU,
March 13th, 1907.

36. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 16th March writes bitterly against the Chief Engineer and the Secretary to the Municipal Corporation of Howrah. The former is said to be a useless sexagenarian, whose engineering qualifications do not even reach the standard of those of a Sub-overseer, and whose only work seems to be to sign papers submitted by his subordinate Engineers. He was formerly engaged in Artillery transport work in Simla, on a monthly salary of Rs. 60, and subsequently became the head of sweepers on Rs. 160 per month. And this man is now getting Rs. 600 per month in the Howrah Municipality. Again, the office of the Secretary to the Corporation is said to be literally a rendezvous of a number of Commissioners, pleaders, and mukhtars. Sometimes the Secretary remains so much absorbed in gossiping with these gentlemen, that he does not even find time to sign office papers. It is rumoured that some time ago the Divisional Commissioner recommended the dismissal of this Secretary after an inspection of his office work. Again, when Mr. LeMesurier was Chairman of the Municipality, this Secretary was, for a similar reason, obliged to take long leave.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
March 16th, 1907.

The Municipality is always in want of money for works of urgent public necessity, but it never wants money to buy motor cars for Magistrates, reconstruct the Buckland Bridge and fill the pockets of a number of highly-paid officers. Over and above this, it has been proposed to increase the Municipal rates and raise the salaries of certain Municipal officers. The present rates of the Howrah Municipality are 22 to 33 per cent., while in Calcutta they never exceed 19½ per cent.

Is the prosperity of Howrah so much greater than that of Calcutta that the rates should be enhanced above even 33 per cent.?

BANGAVASI,
March 16th, 1907.

37. Referring to the proposed ferry steamer service for passengers to be shortly opened by the Calcutta Port Commissioners, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March says that the proposed scheme will have the effect of throwing hundreds of native boatmen out of employment, and so will be their ruin. But the *Englishman* thinks otherwise.

SANDHYA,
March 16th, 1907.

38. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 16th March, after reporting that Sarada Chandra, the Municipal *daroga* of the Nimtala burning ground, has served a notice upon Srijut Brahmananda Brahmachari, the *sebat* of the god Siva at the ghât, to quit the place in two days' time, proceeds to remark that the Bhahmachari Thakur need not be afraid: the Municipal Corporation has no right to commit illegal oppression of this kind. And let the Municipal authorities be warned that rioting will become inevitable, if they unlawfully interfere with religion. A flame will be lit all over the town, if even a hair of the Brahmachari is touched.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 17th, 1907.

39. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th March draws the attention of the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality to the serious irregularities and harassment by Municipal officers in the matter of sanctioning plans for buildings. The following instances will be of help in conducting the suggested enquiry:—(1) complaint by Babu Amulyadhan Addy on behalf of the rate-payers of Ward No. 23, in district No. 4; (2) fines imposed in case No. 2804 of 1905, and in case No. 236 of 1906, by the Municipal Magistrate; (3) sanction given for construction of buildings Nos. 34-1 and 35-1 on the site of a recently filled-up tank in Elgin Road; (4) at No. 12 Champati Lane illegal sanction was given on 23rd June last; (5) illegal sanction given in respect of 15-1 Elgin Road and 73 Russa Road (North).

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 18th, 1907.

40. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March says that, since the introduction of motor-cars in Calcutta, accidents in the streets have greatly increased. Considering the daily increasing number of motor-cars in the town and the great speed at which such cars are generally run, it is of utmost importance that more stringent rules should be enforced regarding them. The attention of the Municipal authorities is drawn to the matter.

SANDHYA,
March 20th, 1907.

41. A correspondent of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 20th March says that arrangements are being made to widen the rail-road, and construct a new mill at Bhatpara in the 24-Parganas, and that this will have the effect of greatly affecting the already bad health of the place. It is feared that cholera, small-pox and other epidemics will rage violently in the place, after the establishment of the mill and the widening of the rail-road.

PALLIVASI,
March 20th, 1907.

42. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 20th March writes that acute water scarcity is being experienced at Kalna: it is an annually recurring difficulty which should be tackled at once in the interests of local sanitation.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

HITAVADI,
March 15th, 1907.

43. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March writes that with the beginning of survey work in Faridpur, the *amins* have begun to commit various kinds of oppression.

SANDHYA,
March 18th, 1907.

44. A correspondent of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 18th March writes from Mehendiganj, Barisal, that the terms upon which land on the new Meghna *chur* is being leased out, providing that each ryot is to keep two bullocks for the plough and one cow, neither more nor less, indicate that the *feringhi* cannot tolerate seeing the Indian improving in wealth and prosperity.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

45. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapur] of the 6th March writes that numerous complaints have reached it against Babu Shashi Bhushan Ghosh, Acting Station Master of Midnapur. Although an Indian, he gets angry beyond measure unless the subordinate railway employes speak of his wife as *mem shahib*. He commits undue oppression on passengers, some of whom are said to be about to bring charges of assault against him. MEDINI BANDHAV, March 6th, 1907.
46. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 15th March complains of excessive overcrowding of the trains on the Southern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. SANDHYA, March 15th, 1907.
47. A correspondent of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 19th March draws attention to the absence of any system of return tickets available for comparatively long periods in the intermediate class on the Assam-Bengal Railway, and also to the lack of any waiting accommodation for females in the majority of stations on that railway. SANDHYA, March 19th, 1907.
48. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th March complains that the booking clerk of Deoghar refused to issue tickets for Kotampur, and the booking clerk of Baidyanath Junction also did the same thing. The writer says that, as he had females with him, he was obliged to give some money to a Babu of the Baidyanath Junction station as a reward, and thus managed to get tickets. The attention of the Railway Authorities is drawn to the matter. DAILY HITAVADI, March 17th, 1907.
49. The *Tamaliika* [Tamluk] of the 16th March draws attention to the necessity of re-excavating the *khal* which extends from Narayan Daud to Kalinagar, in the Jalamutta pargana, and which has now silted up to the great distress of the ryots in the neighbourhood. TAMALIKA, March 16th, 1907.
- Wanted the re-excavation of a *khal*.

(h) — General.

50. The *Nadia* [Krishnagar] of the 9th March writes that a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been asked for by the Collector of Nadia for agricultural advances in the district, and that as sanction of this grant is being delayed, even applications and advances are not being received now. These delays are regrettable, since unless the money is received within *Chaitra*, it will be of no use for purposes of cultivation in this season. Furthermore, the various formalities necessary to be gone through before a loan can be obtained, the dilatoriness with which the necessary official inquiries and verifications are being conducted, and the corrupt practices of the *amla* and peons concerned with the department of the Collectorate dealing with the grant of these to any are, resulting in great hardship to the agriculturist. It would be preferable, if instead of the agriculturists having to make applications in form at Sadar, a system were introduced by which Presidents of Panchayets would make the needful inquiries and verifications, and a Deputy Magistrate on tour would be charged with the actual distribution of the money to each cultivator. NADIA, March 9th, 1907.
51. The *Purulia Darpan* [Purulia] of the 11th March writes that the allegations against the Post Master at Purulia regarding the sale of stamps, made in the columns of the *Manbhum*, are wholly unfounded. PURULIA DARPAN, March 11th, 1907.
52. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March points out that, while Inspectors of Post-offices are in no way inferior to most other officers of the Postal Department and the responsibility attaching to their office is much greater, their salary and prospects are not what they ought to be compared with those of other officers in the Department. Again, there is a difference as regards pay between Mufassal Inspectors on the one hand and Town and Railway Mail Service Inspectors on the other, the former, getting less than the latter. This arrangement seems to be scarcely fair considering that Mufassal Inspectors have to perform no less arduous work than other Post-office Inspectors. It is to be expected that the matter will receive due consideration from the Director-General of the Post-office of India, DAILY HITAVADI, March 11th, 1907.
- Inspectors of Post-offices, their status and prospects.

now that the question of the pay and prospects of the officers of the Department is awaiting his decision.

BIHAR BANDHU,
March 16th, 1907.

53. While enumerating the numerous advantages of the postal system and complimenting the Government on its introduction, the *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipore] of the

A postal complaint.

16th March points out the faults that have now made their way into the administration of the Postal Department, and especially into that of the Railway Mail Service. The fault is particularly attributed to the reckless way in which the sorters execute their charge, and to the fact of the high officers of the Department tolerating the irregularities in the discharge of the duties on the part of the former, by screening their faults. The postal rules laying a strong responsibility on the sorters as regards the disposal of the letters and articles posted are not so much binding upon them as formerly. The practice of forwarding to the Inspector-General, Railway Mail Service, any undisposed of letters and parcels with the slip "Missent" attached thereto has now ceased to exist, and this has given rise to great inconvenience and loss to the public. The responsibility of the sorters having thus been slackened, they now go about their business comparatively inadvertently, with the result that a great difficulty has been arising in the delivery of the letters and parcels, such as has never been experienced since the introduction of the postal system. The paper invites the attention of the Director-General and the Postmaster-General to the complaint, with a view to its being removed.

TAMALIKA,
March 16th, 1907.

54. The *Tamaliika* [Tamluk] of the 16th March, after pointing out that it is now two years since the Post-office building at Tamluk was burned down, and that the

The Tamluk Post-office.

building in which it has since been temporarily housed will have soon to be vacated concludes with the suggestion that a new *pucca* building in a suitable position in the town, such as that occupied by the burnt-down house, should be built either direct by Government or by a private person under a long lease from the Government.

**BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,**
March 19th, 1907.

55. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 19th March publishes a letter advocating the establishment of a Post-office at Susandighi, in the Sahebganj thana in Burdwan,

Wanted a post-office.

which it is said will be a great convenience to 8 or 10 neighbouring villages.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 11th, 1907.

56. Referring to the statement of a London correspondent of the *Statesman* newspaper that Mr. John Morley is now considering whether distinguished Indians may with advantage be appointed as Members of the Secretary of State's Council, the *Daily Hitavadi*

Appointment of Indians to the Council of the Secretary of State for India.

[Calcutta] of the 11th March observes that there would be nothing to rejoice us, even if one Hindu and one Muhammadan were nominated as Members; for Indian public opinion, as expressed by them, would be overruled by the other members. The writer thinks that at least five Indian members should be appointed to the Secretary of State's Council to inspire some respect for Indian public opinion.

BANGAVASI,
March 16th, 1907.

57. Referring to the rumour that Mr. John Morley is considering the advisability of entertaining some distinguished Indians as Members of the India Council, the

Indians in the Secretary of State's Council.

Bangavasi [Calcutta] of the 16th March remarks that, if the proposal is given effect to, some out-caste Hindus, who are not Hindus at all, will have the privilege of sitting as Members in the Secretary of State's Council.

SANJIVANI,
March 14th, 1907.

58. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th March writes that the British Government will see, if it grants self-government to India, that Indians will not prove ungrateful.

Self-government in India.

But the danger lies in the fact that certain people blinded by self-interest are not letting the British Government be liberal.

PRASUN,
March 15th, 1907.

59. The *Prasun* [Katwa] of the 15th March counsels Government if it wishes to remedy the sufferings of thousands of its subjects to stop the exportation of food-grains

Export of food-grains.

temporarily. Unless it does this, it will be sowing the seeds of its own ultimate ruin.

60. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March referring to the recent announcement of the intention of the Government of India of raising a loan of three crores of rupees, remarks :—

The new Government of India loan.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 15th, 1907.

“What has the Government to fear in raising a loan, when the interest thereon will have to be provided by the people of India?”

61. Referring to Mr. John Morley's reply to Sir Henry Cotton in Parliament, on the subject of the publication of inflammatory correspondence in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, the same paper says that where Anglo-Indian prestige is at stake, even the Secretary of State for India is averse to taking any action. That is truly sympathetic and impartial treatment indeed which varies according to the colour of the parties concerned.

Mr. John Morley's reply to Sir Henry Cotton.

DAILY HITAVADI.

62. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 17th March writes that, consequent upon certain objectionable writings appearing in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, Punjab, such as were calculated to bring about racial antipathy, the principal local gentlemen approached the Punjab Government on behalf of the public praying for the prosecution of the journal. The Government admitted the offence committed by the journal, but refused to sanction the prosecution. Lately, Sir Henry Cotton, the friend of India, asked a question on the subject at the last meeting of Parliament, to which Mr. Morley replied that he did not see any reason for fresh legislation on the matter. As it appears, when a certain Englishman has, opinionatively, said something on any public question, the others echo his voice. Mr. Morley is repeatedly characterized as having general sympathy with the public. But how far partiality towards one's own community is to be reckoned as an instance of sympathy cannot be determined.

Government and the *Civil and Military Gazette*.

HITVARTA,
March 17th, 1907.

63. Referring to the same, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March says that the Indian Journals, such as the *Englishman* and the *Pioneer*, should now give cheer. As for the native-owned papers, they cannot expect any sympathy except in the mercy of God.

Government and the *Civil and Military Gazette*.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
March 18th, 1907.

64. A correspondent of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 15th March mentions the following instances of partiality on the part of the Deputy Magistrate of Kandi :—

Allegations against a Deputy Magistrate.

SANDHYA,
March 15th, 1907.

(1) Although, out of the 10 *ticcadars* of the Municipality, only one is an *Utar Rarhi Kayesth*, an unduly large share of work is given privately to this *Kayesth* without any tenders being called for.

(2) A *Kayesth*, a fellow caste-man of the Deputy Babu's living within the jurisdiction of the Kandi Municipality, has been made to supersede a competent man as President of Panchayet of Andulia and Durgapur.

(3) A sum of Rs. 400 from the Municipal Funds has been, without the sanction of the Commissioner, spent on improving facilities of communication for the benefit of the members of the *Kayesth shabha*.

65. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March hears that the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam has withdrawn the prosecution against Baikuntha Babu of Gopaldi in connexion with his allegations against Mr. Jack, and remarks that all now feel that this action of Government is inspired by a fear lest Mr. Jack should bring discredit on himself, while under examination by Counsel for the defence. People will now believe that the allegations of Baikuntha Babu against Mr. Jack were not untrue.

The case against Baikuntha Babu in Backerganj.

HITAVADI,
March 15th, 1907.

66. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March has the following :—
We have always maintained that, if the King and his subjects do not live in one and the same country, it is impossible that they should help each other in furthering one common object. In such a case the King can never succeed in properly

Government's treatment of Indians.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 15th, 1907.

governing his distant Kingdom. The King of England's first thoughts must be for the good of England. King Edward VII and his English subjects have so arranged that the wealth of India may flow towards England with the greatest possible ease. Our relation with our Sovereign is indeed strange. In adversity we are very near and dear to him, but in prosperity we are nobody. The Victoria Memorial Hall is to be built, and the Indians being British subjects must subscribe to the fund to be raised for the purpose. But when a high post in the public service is to be filled up, the Indians, however well qualified, must make room for Englishmen, for they are the country-men of the Sovereign. When a ball is given in Government House, the Indians have no right to be there, for His Excellency, the Viceroy, knows that they are foreigners; but when money has to be raised for some purpose, it is the natives who must pay. On such an occasion every English official from the Viceroy downwards regards wealthy Indians as very dear friends.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
March 16th, 1907.

67. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 16th March writes as follows:—

A toll complaint.

According to the Hooghly Port Rules, boats carrying cargo belonging to their owners have not to be licensed. But the *mahajans* of the Ramkrishnapur Ghât are obliged to take licenses for their own boats carrying their own cargo, because much larger tolls are arbitrarily realised for the cargo of unlicensed boats than for that of the licensed boats.

BASUMATI,
March 16th, 1907.

68. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 16th March would be glad to see

the Duke of Connaught as Commander-in-Chief in India, for all classes of the people in the country possess a degree of attachment and respect for a brother of the King, not a hundredth part of which is likely to be gained by any paid official of his. Intimate contact between India and persons of the Royal family is most highly desirable. The influence of the Royal family does not exist in this country, and for fear of chastisement at the hands of the King's servants, the people are daily becoming increasingly weak.

BASUMATI.

69. Referring to the recent reply, as reported by Reuter, by Mr. Morley in Parliament, to a question by Sir W. J. Bull,

Colonial Conference.

the same paper writes that truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. Englishmen all over the world can on the plea of imperialism make a milch-cow of India, and yet in the programme of business of their Colonial Conference the subject of the hellish sufferings of Indians in the Colonies finds no place. India is the brightest jewel in the British Crown, the principal source of the power, prosperity and commerce of the British Empire. And yet Indians are humiliated so much in England's Colonies, and England is so indifferent to the matter. What else is selfishness?

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 16th, 1907.

70. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March has the following:—

Government and the people.

The *ma-bap* relation now no longer subsists between the Government and the people. The rulers, far from regarding the Indian people as sons, take them rather as step-sons. Although the latter's loyalty is still intact, yet it must be said that the misdeeds of the rulers have rudely shaken their faith in them. A belief has grown in the popular mind that much of what the rulers profess is meant to deceive the people. Deceit, want of trust in the people, and little-mindedness have gradually destroyed their faith in their rulers. Half-a-century has passed away since the sepoy mutiny, yet even now the Indian people are not allowed to have arms in their possession. This shows that the people are not trusted. The Indians are not appointed to high offices under Government, although they have shown their fitness in every direction. The rulers have shut out the Indians from all pursuits calculated to secure their real improvement, but have done everything to gain their own selfish ends, and have thus managed to forfeit their respect and love. Such unfriendly feelings between the rulers and the ruled can never be a desirable thing. The outcome of it all must be most disastrous. But it is not too late yet. If the right course is followed from now, the re-establishment of friendly feelings between the Government and the people is neither difficult nor impossible.

71. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March says that, from what Accounts, for 1905-06. has already been published of the Accounts for 1905-06, it appears that the total receipts of the Government of India remain practically the same for the year as in previous years, although there was a falling off of the revenues in the case of some Provinces. The receipts from the railway, salt and stamps have increased all round, as they are bound to increase in these days. But as to the country or its people, that is a different question altogether.

BANGAVASI,
March 16th, 1907.

72. The same paper writes:—

Mr. Hare's administration of Eastern Bengal.

If there is any difference between Mr. Hare and Sir Bampfylde Fuller, it consists only in their outward forms. Inwardly the two are essentially the same. What Sir Bampfylde used to do barefacedly, Mr. Hare is doing under a thin covering; he is doing still worse. There can be no denying of it. Sir Bampfylde Fuller openly adopted the policy of divide and rule. Mr. Hare also has adopted the same policy, though in a different fashion. The former gave the reins to his tongue, and the latter plays the pantomime and with singular success. It was Sir Bampfylde's lot to receive nothing but obloquy from the Hindus. But even the Hindus have not the heart to find fault with Mr. Hare. Just mark the catalogue of events. Harish Chandra's request was granted, Mahim Chandra was promoted, Nawab Salimulla was promised fourteen lakhs, and much sympathy was expressed in a Government Resolution for Muhammadans. Then came that terrible outburst at Comilla, where the lives, property and honour of the inhabitants were for a time insecure. Will Mr. Hare tell us to whose faulty administration these malpractices were due? The people, though they might be dumb like Mr. Hare, understand everything, see through every artifice.

BANGAVASI.

73. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 16th March reports that a shop has been opened under official patronage at Barisal for the storing of foreign salt, and they remark that it is most disagreeable to see the same hand of Magistrate and Commissioner, which wield the rod of State, hold the merchants' balance and do the duties of crafty middlemen. But the English are a nation of shop-keepers, and although they may have the Royal mark on their foreheads, they are not ashamed to go about from door to door with the traders' bag slung from their shoulders.

BASUMATI,
March 16th, 1907.

74. Referring to the appointment of Muhammad Fakir Sayed Iftiar-uddin to the office of British Representative at Kabul, the same paper writes that this unique good fortune has fallen to the lot of an Indian, because a European Agent cannot be posted to Kabul.

BASUMATI.

75. Referring to the reports on the disturbances at Comilla, published in the *Statesman* newspaper, as supplied by its special European reporter, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March says that the official report published by the authorities contains several mis-statements, besides being too short. What has the Government of Eastern Bengal to say, if the public draws the inference that even in the official report it has shewn a tendency to side with the Muhammadans?

BANGAVASI,
March 16th, 1907.

76. In spite of all that the Comilla authorities may say in their own defence, the same paper writes, the conclusion seems inevitable that the good old policy of British administration has suddenly been changed. Otherwise how can we account for the astounding fact that, although the officials were present with all their forces, the Hindus of Comilla town were running in all directions for the safety of their families and their property, heads were broken on the public roads, and the old and the young were alike injured? The same thing was done at Mymensingh, at Serajganj and at Barisal. If now the officials are obliged to employ the Gurkha Military Police so often to put down the peaceful Hindus, all that can be said is that the British sceptre has become worm-eaten, and that their fertile brain has hit upon a novel method of Government.

BANGAVASI.

77. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th March says that it is the authorities at Comilla who alone are responsible for the disturbances there. It was suspected that there was a mystery about these disturbances, and that mystery has now been revealed, that the Comilla officials were

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 17th, 1907.

arranging beforehand to inflict a severe punishment upon the Hindus appears from the fact that they had asked the Railway Authorities not to allow any students to come to Comilla by train. This precaution was considered necessary, as Hindu students from other schools might come to Comilla to help their friends there. As a consequence many persons had to walk all the way from Chandpur to Comilla, a distance of 46 miles, as railway tickets were not issued to them. The Hindus sent a telegram to England on the second day of the disturbances, and Mr. Cursetjee also did the same, at whose instigation it is not difficult to divine. The Muhammadan rioters made a rush upon the zilla school students in their hostel, because the authorities perhaps wanted to have their heads broken for their *swadesism*. Can such irresponsible conduct on the part of Government officials lead to good results in the end?

SANDHYA,
March 18th, 1907.

78. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 18th March writes that the real truth about the recent incidents at Comilla have not all yet been made public at Calcutta. It is said that,

Incidents at Comilla.

excepting the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, none of the Calcutta papers written in English have dared to publish wholly what was from time time wired from Comilla; it is not possible any longer to deny the complicity of the *feringhi* in the Comilla affair. From the official communique published on the subject, one can easily understand with what kind of feeling the Nawab Salimulla went to Comilla. The Nawab is a mere puppet in the hands of the *feringhi*, and dances to the *feringhi's* time. The *feringhi* is his adviser and his supporter. Under such circumstances it is impossible even to imagine that before undertaking a serious work like this he did not consult his *feringhi* lords. It is not unfair to conclude that the *feringhis* had a hand in this affair from the very outset.

This suspicion is only strengthened, when one sees the manner in which the local *feringhi* officials sat absolutely quiescent during the riots. The Magistrate of Comilla is not personally a very bad man. He would not be in his present responsible post, if he were lacking in intelligence or in a sense of duty. The people of the country never before saw him so weak and incapable as he has shown himself in this affair. Why then should he have been so on this occasion? It is not easy to answer this question? The Magistrate took no remedial action on the day on which the Nawab's procession started and the looting first took place. The police accompanied the procession, but they remained quite inactive. The fact is that it is probable that this *Nawabi* row was arranged for with the same crooked purpose in view with which Aswani Babu was humiliated, Gurkhas were stationed and the Provincial Conference broken up at Barisal. The Gurkhas were let loose at Barisal, with the object of impressing the people of the country with their own utter helplessness, and with the incapacity of the leaders of the *swadeshi* agitation to protect their fellow country-men from the anger of the *feringhi*. But, by the mercy of God, the spirit of the people was not quelled by the oppression of the Gurkhas. When in attempting to make the people of the country helpless, the *feringhis* themselves became weak and helpless, all the blame was laid on poor Sir B. Fuller, who was then humiliated. But the people could not be deluded even by that, so, as a last resource, a wielding of *Nawabi lathis* was arranged for. The *feringhi* has now thoroughly grasped the strength of *swadeshi*; and the eyes of those ignorant Musalmans who sought to use the *lathi* on the backs of their own countrymen at the instigation of the *feringhi* have also been opened.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 16th, 1907.

79. Referring to Mr. Fitzgerald's speech on the occasion of the installation of Prince Ranjit Singh to the *gadi* of Jamnagar, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March observes:—

Irresponsibility of Government
officials in India.

Mr. Fitzgerald's was an excellent speech. We have nothing to take exception to it. But there is a saying 'Physician, cure thyself,' and we are tempted to make use of that saying to the Government of India, on whose behalf Mr. Fitzgerald spoke. Does the Government follow its own advice? If it did, and if the highly placed officials followed even a hundredth part of that advice, then the British Government in India would have been one of the best in the world. But the Government of India is an irresponsible Government, and the officials are generally callous. This state of things came into existence when the rule of the East India Company came to an end. No Commission now sits to examine the administration of the country. No Viceroy is now in dread of an impeachment for his misdeeds. The old Commission of Enquiry was abolished, but the pledges given by the Sovereign

were not fulfilled. The Secretary of State for India now gives what answer he pleases to questions regarding oppression in India. Nobody is responsible to the Imperial Parliament. It is for this reason that we occasionally find such a wide difference between profession and practice of the rulers.

80. Referring to Mr. John Morley's statement in Parliament that he was not prepared to act up to the suggestion of Mr. O'Grady, M.P., although he had read Sir Andrew Fraser's opinion on the inexperience of Anglo-Indian officials, the same paper observes that on no account will the Secretary of State for India do anything which might be prejudicial to the prestige or the power of the bureaucracy.

DAILY HITAVADI.

Mr. John Morley's statement in Parliament.

81. Referring to the dismissal of two Bengali officers in the Kasipur Gun Factory by the Superintendent, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th March writes that the unwillingness of this officer to explain his action to the Inspector-General of Ordnance is indeed curious. He may be a model officer for aught one knows; still he is bound to explain to his superior officer the reason for the action he took, so that the dismissed officers may have an opportunity of saying what they may have in their defence.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 19th, 1907.

The dismissal of Bengali clerks by the Superintendent of Kasipur Gun Factory.

82. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th March writes that, if Government lend 14 lakhs to the Nawab Salimulla, a common manager will have to be appointed, which means that the other co-sharers of the estate will have to suffer and lose in many ways. And what right has Government to injure others' interests in attempting to protect the Nawab's interests? If out of charity to the Nawab, Government takes this disgraceful course of action, the Nawab, puffed up by his sense of official support, will indirectly do his best to stir up strife between Hindus and Musalmans, and thus bring to nothing the efforts at restoring peace in Eastern Bengal which Government is making.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 20th, 1907.

The Nawab Salimulla and Government.

III.—LEGISLATION.

83. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th March thinks that the protest and objection which the Hon'ble Babu Jogendranath Mukherji raised in Council the other day regarding road cess was most well-founded, and separate accounts should be kept of the receipts and disbursements of this fund.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
March 14th, 1907.

84. With reference to the select Committee's report on the Local Self-Government Act Amendment Bill, the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 20th March inquires if the increase of the authority of the Commissioner over local self-governing bodies will diminish the Government control over them. The paper further cannot support any new taxation for village sanitation, and requests Government to see that ryots have some cheap and easy remedy for any harassment to which they may be subjected by the employes of the Road Cess Department.

PALLIVASI,
March 20th, 1907.

The Local Self-Government Act Amendment Bill.

85. The same paper thinks that the changes made in the Select Committee in the original Tenancy Bill have removed many objectionable features, but not all of them. Considering the oppression which is practised in connexion with the cess certificate procedure, it is desirable that the Civil Courts and not the Collectorates should be entrusted with the work of granting certificates for the collection of rents. It might be so arranged that if, after summons has been issued to the defendant in a rent suit, no objection is filed, the court may proceed to take evidence on true affidavit by the plaintiff and issue a process for the auction sale of the defendant's moveable or immoveable property. And with a provision for simultaneous execution, there are provided all facilities for a prompt realisation of rents. The law might make a provision for obviating as far as possible the possibility of delay by the defendant putting in unjust objections after summons had been

PALLIVASI.

The proposed Tenancy Legislation.

served on him. Such provision already exists to some extent and additional provision in that direction is contemplated in the draft Bill. The same punishment might be provided for refusal to pay up due rents as is provided now for denial of relations as zamindar and tenant. Further, the decision in these cases should be final, as contemplated in the Bill under consideration. The advantages of the plan hereinbefore outlined are (1) that it will obviate the need of the preparation of records-of-rights and (2) that it will extend the same facilities for the prompt collection of rents to all zamindars alike.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BHARAT MITRA,
March 16th, 1907.

86. The Government of Bombay, writes the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 16th March, has been pleased to appoint a Commission consisting of the Commissioner of Sindh, the Sessions Judge of Poona and the Raja of Bhund to enquire into and report on the charges preferred against Sri Mant Mana Saheb, Sirdar of Aundh, the administration of whose State has been entrusted to his accuser, Mr. Arthur, the local Political Agent, until the final decision of Government, in the matter. What does this mean, asks the paper, that Mr. Arthur, who has brought criminal charges against the Raja, has been elected to administer his State? Will not this go to affect the latter, disadvantageously?

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGAVASI,
March 9th, 1907.

87. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March, in describing Magra Hât, writes how on the station one sees waggons loaded with bags of rice and paddy awaiting export and how, coming out of the station, one meets with corrugated-iron sheds and godowns for the storing of rice and paddy on all sides. There are first the Bombay Company's godowns, fully stocked with rice, which is being daily exported. A number of Bengalis do the buying here for the Company. Then, further away from the station, are the stores and godowns of Messrs. Ralli Brothers, of Srijut Nami Gopal Soali, of Messrs. Schroder Smidt & Co. Of these, Messrs. Ralli's transactions are on the largest scale, and they have so many of their men here as to require the services of a doctor of their own to attend on them.

JASOHAR,
March 14th, 1907.

88. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 14th March says that the pitiable sight of the people of a country crying for want of food and hundreds of them dying of starvation, and the food-grains of the country being at the same time exported to other countries, is possible in India alone.

JASOHAR.

89. A correspondent of the same paper says that the distress due to the destruction of paddy-crops by flood has become so severe in the villages surrounding the Ichchamati *bil* near Mithapur within the Narail subdivision of the Jessore district, that unless relief is provided in the coming month, most people will die of starvation. The attention of the Subdivisional Officer of Narail is drawn to the matter.

SANDHYA,
March 16th, 1907.

90. In referring to the grant of five lakhs by the Government of India towards famine relief in Bihar, the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 16th March remarks that nothing can save the situation now unless the root of the evil is struck at.

BANGAVASI,
March 16th, 1907.

91. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March has the following:—

A famine apprehended in Bengal. We piteously cried for protection, but the rulers did not respond. In our despair we appealed to our countrymen and a ready response came. The country is in the jaws of ruin, a horrible famine stares us in the face, but the rulers are deaf to our entreaties. O, what is to be done to save our lives?

A meeting for consultation was held in the editorial room of the *Bangavasi*. The Maharaja of Darbhanga presided.

92. The same paper writes:—

The apprehended famine in Bengal.

The country's condition is daily growing worse. It is our country first and the Empire of the English afterwards. If the English rulers do not care to take timely precaution, will their Empire endure? If the people die out, whom will they govern?

English rulers, you know the lessons of history. You have been in India for about 200 years. Honestly tell us—do not forget the tenets of your religion, if you have any religion at all, when you speak—if at any time during your administration such distress, such dire distress, was ever witnessed in this country?

It must be admitted that this distress is directly owing to the unrestricted export of rice, the result of free-trade principles unfortunately obtaining in this country. Free trade has its uses no doubt; but where there is actually danger to life due to export of rice, what is the clear duty of the rulers? Will the rulers say, let the people perish, but still let free-trade principles be respected? In no civilised country can the rulers say so. Such can never be the policy of the British administrators. If, on the contrary, such are really the provisions you have laid down, let those provisions be rubbed out from the paper on which they are written, or let them be burned to ashes. The situation is critical. The question is one of life and death. If the rulers fail to supply rice at this crisis, their disgrace will be blazoned throughout the world; every tongue will cry shame upon them. Our countrymen, while refraining from all illegal actions, must take steps to prevent the foreign merchant from snatching away their mouthfuls of rice, from sucking their heart's blood. First provide your own daily food; that is the first consideration.

93. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March notes that the cry of the Indian people for food, a bumper harvest of paddy in the north-western part of India notwithstanding, is obviously due to the all overwhelming export to foreign countries.

Outturn of paddy in the North-West and the general cry of the people for food.

BANGAVASI,
March 18th, 1907.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
March 18th, 1907.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

94. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 9th March writes that the Indian

The duty of the Indians at the present time.

National Congress has been raising a piteous wail for the last 20 years with the object of redressing the country's grievances, but the Government is deaf. And it is not easy to awake one who feigns to be asleep while he is really awake. Lord Curzon has taught the Indians that mere crying and weeping will do no good, and Mr. Morley is teaching the same lesson. It is now the duty of Indians, leaving off weeping and crying and giving up all hopes of service, to learn to stand on their own legs and earn independent livelihoods in industrial pursuits.

KHULNAVASI,
March 9th, 1907.

95. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th March has the following:—

British prestige.

The English want to tell us that they conquered India by the sword and have since kept it by the sword. "British prestige" perhaps means nothing but this vaunted force of arms. But in India this "prestige" cannot be maintained. For the Indians to a man know how India came under the sway of the British and how their power is being still maintained there. School-boys who have read Indian history know how the battle of Plassey was won. The English therefore have no right to say that they conquered India by the sword.

If, then, it is true that the English have not conquered India by the sword, it is equally true that they are not keeping it by that means. India is guarded by seventy thousand British and about two lakhs and a half of native troops. But these latter, though paid by the Government, are not British, and therefore the power they represent is not British power.

But we do not mean to assert that the English never did establish prestige in this country. They established good government in India and thereby won the hearts of the Indians. They introduced Western arts and

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 13th, 1907.

science in India and this served to spread their fame. They undertook to put down oppression and defend the weak against the strong, and thereby made a great impression upon the minds of the Indians. The prestige which the British have established in this country is therefore not due to their force of arms, but is due to their great-mindedness. Nobody in India will be disposed to bow to British valour when there are Sikhs, Gurkhas, Rajputs, Marhattas, and Pathans in this country. What extorted admiration from the Indians was Englishmen's love for their own country and countrymen, their energy, determination, perseverance, and other good qualities. What appealed most strongly to the Indian mind was Englishmen's good administration and love of justice. Nobody ever dreamed that such a powerful administrator as Warren Hastings could be made to stand before a tribunal as an accused person. But even he who was once the Governor-General of India, was summoned before Parliament to answer charges that were brought against him, and was disgraced before the British public. This great trial made the Indians feel what a great nation the English were. But the English have quite forgotten their true prestige and are now pursuing shadows. They are making themselves ridiculous by the prosecution of the *Bhal*, the *Vihari*, and the *Punjabee* newspapers.

JASOHAR,
Feb. 14th, 1907.

96. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 14th March says:—

Independence should be aimed
at by Indians.

In the morning of our national life we must, with our own efforts, establish our full independence in all matters, whether political, social or spiritual. May the great maxim take root in the minds of the Indians that independence is life and bondage is death, and may God bless this fallen nation.

SANJIVANI,
March 18th, 1907.

97. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th March writes that what Surendra

Surendra Babu and the incidents
at Comilla.

Babu has done for the settlement of the anarchy at Comilla entitles him to public gratitude, but the time is not yet come for that to be made public. Why the Commissioner suddenly went to Comilla? Why the Secretary of the Anjuman disclaimed the account published in the *Englishman*? Why the official enquiry has not been entrusted to the local executive? What orders have been passed in this connexion by Mr. Morley and Lord Minto? These are not things which may be told in public yet. When they are, the public will see what Surendra Babu has done for Comilla.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 17th, 1907.

98. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th March writes that, during

The *swadeshi* volunteers at
Comilla.

the late disturbances at Comilla, the *swadeshi* volunteers made themselves conspicuous by their exertions, and rendered every help to persons in distress without any distinction of caste or creed. They escorted people from the railway station, and even Muhammadan travellers placed every confidence in them. How very shameless must be those officials who are seeking to ascribe the disturbances to the *swadeshi* agitation and to make the *swadeshi* volunteers responsible for them.

SANDHYA,
March 18th, 1907.

99. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 18th March writes that on the day of

Incidents at Comilla.

Comilla's sore trouble, when the people there were hopeless: "Be not afraid, *Bande Mataram*" were the words, which, according to trustworthy authority, were heard at night uttered from on high. And with this auspicious blessing of the mother on their heads, the women of Comilla that night armed themselves for self-protection, the youths provided themselves with *lathis* and spears, and all were awake the whole night.

Continuing, the same paper writes that the Gurkhas were brought to Comilla from Dacca, not to protect the Comilla people (for they had taken that work upon themselves), but to allay the terrors of the local *ferringhis*, men and women, who, on the day of the riot, thought that their lives were in danger, and sought shelter at the circuit-house where they were guarded by armed sentries. In fact, at the sound of the gun-shot, the wife of the Judge is reported to have fainted away.

SANDHYA,
March 19th, 1907.

100. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 19th March writes:—

Incidents at Comilla.

The *ferringhis* having read our real character, are trying to make so many sheep of us, Like the

dog in the fable, they say that they will continue defending us from the wolf and enjoying themselves, while we poor sheep shall go on grazing and bleating.

Those leaders who want "self-government within the Empire," who cannot even in their dreams conceive of cutting off all relations with the *feringhi*, those leaders are regular sheep manufactured by the *feringhi*. They have learned only one cry—to bleat—when in danger; they only run to the *feringhi* dog and bleat.

The question now comes whether we are always to continue as sheep under the protection of the *feringhi* dog, or we shall like the young of lions defend our own lives and honour. When the leaders were soundly thrashed at Barisal last year, they adopted the policy of sheep. But the people of Comilla have this time shown that the Bengalis, ignoring the *feringhi* dog, can give a sound thrashing and are capable of protecting their own and their women's lives and honour. Bravo! Comilla. You have infused a new life and a new spirit into Bengal. Where were the *feringhi* dogs then? With their tails clapped between their legs, they were in hiding. All have understood from the incidents at Comilla that it is no longer proper to look to the *feringhi* for any help.

101. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 15th March ridicules the idea that it was Babu Surendranath's telegram to Mr. Morley that led to the cessation of the disturbances at Comilla, and will eventually annul the partition and remarks as follows:—

SANDHYA,
March 15th, 1907.

The coming Provincial Conference.

Leaving off clandestine love intrigue with the *feringhi*, come out and declare yourselves. At the coming Berhampore Conference, arrange so that *lathi* may be wielded against *lathi*, as also for a few fire-arms, in order that we may save our own lives from unlawful oppression.

102. With reference to the recent visit of the Duke of Connaught to Calcutta, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March writes that, if the object of the visit was to strengthen the popular attachment to the Royal family, it should be remembered that good government is the only means of winning popular affection. It is only a madman's delusion, quite unworthy of credence, that the people may be left groaning under a repressive *regimé*, and will yet be captivated if only they set eyes on a Royal personage.

HITAVADI,
March 15th, 1907.

103. According to the account given by the reporter of the *Englishman* newspaper, writes the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March, the whole town of Serajganj, except a few individuals, flocked to welcome Mr. Hare, when His Honour lately visited the place. If this is true, what does it shew? It shews unmistakeably that the loyalty of the people is unshakeable. Even the late Gurkha outrage could not shake it. The writer concludes as follows:—If you trample upon a people who possess such splendid loyalty, know it for certain that so many as one thousand Jesus Christs will not be able to save you from damnation.

BANGAVASI,
March 16th, 1907.

104. Referring to the statement of Mr. H. Davis, M.P., at a recent meeting of the Central Asian Association, that the success of the newly granted representative Government in Persia would imperil the British situation in India, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 16th, 1907.

Representative institutions in India.

It is hard to understand why the success of representative institution in Persia should imperil the British in India. Has not a representative Government been granted to the newly-conquered Boers? Perhaps Mr. Davis is afraid that the British merchants and the Anglo-Indians and their dependants will be prejudiced by the establishment of a representative Government in this country. Do these people think that the Indians will for ever remain the "hewers of wood and drawers of water," that they are now? We make bold to say that they are sadly mistaken. Sooner or later their illusions will be thoroughly dispelled and they will have a rude awakening.

105. A correspondent of the *Yugantar* [Calcutta] of the 17th March replies as follows to the objections made by the *Education Gazette* to the demand of self-government made by certain newspapers at the present movement:—

YUGANTAR,
March 17th, 1907.

The demand of self-government.

(1) As to the grant of self-government by the English: After the thrashing in 1857, the English got affrighted for the time, and declared

that they would give Indians equal rights with themselves; but after the pain in their body had abated a little, they again declared that the Queen's Proclamation was an "impossible Charter."

(2) As regards fitness, Mr. Gladstone held that "it is liberty alone which fits a man for liberty."

(3) That we have no Jute Mills or Steamer Companies of our own, may be a matter of misfortune for us; but there is no doubt that our condition of servitude is one of the reasons for that state of things.

(4) As to the high-mindedness of the English, and as to the statement that by circulating by their own post peons a paper like the *Yugantar* the English are showing no end of liberality:

Alas! Alas! When these benevolent officials sent the great Tilak to jail, did the sea of their mercy dry up? And has not news of the unhappy fate which has overtaken the *Punjabee*, because it sought to tell the truth, yet reached the office of the *Education Gazette*? The truth is that because Government is afraid of the Punjab and of Maharashtra, that this kind of treatment is meted out there. And it is because in Bengal the English have not yet come across the Bengali in his fear-inspiring aspect, that Government rests content with only having engaged the services of a few spies.

(5) The fact of the Bengali having assisted the English in 1857 may be a proof of his attachment to his rulers, but is certainly no proof of his attachment to his country. If assisting in fettering one's own country be called loyalty, then the sooner the country is rid of such loyalty the better.

(6) Then as regards the question of moral right and wrong: If remaining inactive and seeing the country go to the dogs is doing the right, then one knows not what doing the wrong is. If living the life of the slave be the aim, then where is the need of agriculture and commerce? It is not unknown to Indians that revolution on many occasions assists in supporting justice and in defending religion.

YUGANTAR.

106. The same paper, after having recounted previous occasions on which Bengal tried to recover her lost independence, proceeds as follows:—

"Our New Year."

There came another opportunity; but we, stupid Bengalis, neglected it. On the day Serajuddowla begged his life of the landholders of Bengal, we failed to grasp the meaning of his words. On that day the tutelary goddess of Bengal might have had a gold throne made for her, but the ignorant and aimless Bengalis did not know their mother on that day. Driven by self-interest, on that day we willingly made over the government of the Province to foreigners; Bengal was not conquered by the English by force, but we of our own accord made ourselves their slaves.

1857 A. D. The dense darkness of the new moon. Even then we were fast asleep with a sleep of delusion. The fierce cry of a Mahratta Brahman had reached our ears; but we took no notice of it. We shut our eyes to the meaning of the words uttered by the Hindustani and the Mahratta. That was an opportunity. But we were not then united as brothers should, and our mother, though inclined to pity us, did not do so.

Half-a-century has since passed away. The darkness of night is about to be dispelled. The rays of the rising sun have lighted up the eastern sky. The morning breeze has breathed a new spell into our ears. The worship of the mother will begin. Sati, Siva's wife, has been revived and is going to join Siva. Rise, rise, O ye brothers; shake off the lethargy of seven hundred years! Wash off the stain that has darkened your name for seven centuries!

"O you mother golden Bengal, rise, rise mother; we shall henceforth be good lads to you, walk in the right path and behave ourselves so as not to disgrace you!" "Come, O mother, tinged with a new hue, armed with new strength, proud with a new pride, and dreaming new dreams! Come, O mother, come to your house; we, fifty million sons of yours, will at one and the same time worship your feet unitedly with a hundred million hands joined together! With fifty million tongues we shall cry O Ambica, mother of the world; O mother earth, giver of wealth and paddy; O daughter of the first of the mountains; O goddess, who bear the full moon on your forehead; O

goddess, worshipped by the sea, O churner of the ocean; O goddess who carry ten weapons in your ten hands, in order to kill your enemies; O goddess with eternal beauty, and of eternal existence; O the giver of eternal power, give strength and power to your sons. How shall we call you mother? We shall sacrifice our fifty million heads at your feet, roar out that name from our fifty million throats and lay down these fifty million lives for your sake. Come home, mother. What need she care who is the mother of fifty million sons?

Come, come, let us swim on the sea of eternity, beating, lashing and agitating it with our numberless arms. Let us carry that golden image on our heads. Why shall we be afraid? The worst that can happen to us is that we may sink. But of what use is the life of those who are motherless?

Rise, rise, O brothers, we have been inspired to-day with a new hope! To-day is our new year!

107. A correspondent of the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 17th March furnishes a Hindi translation of an article lately appearing in the *Kor*, a newspaper of Southern

HITVARTA,
March 17th, 1907.

India, describing how one Mr. Burrow visited the Amir of Sindh in the disguise of a merchant, and how the hospitality of the Amir was returned by the English in the subsequent annexation of Sindh, with the remarks that it should be remembered that there are thieves and eaters of what is obtained by unfair means in this world, and that an ungrateful person bores holes into the vessel from which he eats.

108. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th March quotes the speech delivered by Saiyid Hyder, Raja of Delhi, at a *swadeshi* meeting at Allahabad, and observes that this meeting, as well as another at Lahore under

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 19th, 1907.

Muhammadian advocacy of the *swadeshi* cause.

Muhammadian presidency, unmistakably shows that *swadeshi* can never die in India. The Anglo-Indians will doubtless be incensed at the spectacle of Muhammadans upholding the *swadeshi* cause. But who can oppose the inevitable?

109. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 19th March contains a supposed address by the goddess of action to Bengalis, in which the following occurs:—

SANDHYA,
March 19th, 1907.

That which has to be completely broken into fragments, to be pulverised into dust—that very thing has first to be taken up on one's head. Thrown down from the highest position, it is completely pulverised. Now throw away into a distance those who have attained to predominance over you by the influence of selfish cunning and pride, and they will be broken into fragments.

A mixed club for Indians and Europeans at Calcutta.

110. The same paper ridicules the project of starting a mixed club for Indians and Europeans at Calcutta, remarking: "Now that you have the club, India is liberated! Say *Bande Mataram*."

SANDHYA.

URIYA PAPERS.

111. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th March agrees with the *World's Recorder*, Calcutta, in the latter's observa-

UTKALDIPIKA,
March 9th, 1907.

The petition of Sridhar Jana against the proprietor of Kanika.

tion that the enquiries ordered to be made regarding the allegations of the petitioner, Sridhar Jana, against the proprietor of Kanika should be published without delay for the information of the public. It is said that the distress of Sridhar Jana is increasing day by day, and it is advisable that the results of the enquiry should be made public.

The *Sambalpur Hitaiskini* [Bamra] of the 9th March quotes a paragraph from the *Prasabandhu*, of Ganjam, in which it is stated that the peons of the proprietor of Kanika so severely beat Sridhar's father, who was 66 years old, that he died a few days after the occurrence. The Subdivisional Officer of Kendrapara, who is related to the Manager of Kanika, was ordered to investigate the matter, but the results of the investigation are not known.

scarcely had Sridhar recovered from the effects of this disaster, when a number of men in company with a Civil Court peon went to attack his house on the strength of a decree, which the proprietor of Kanika had purchased from the decree-holder with the object of harassing Sridhar. The writer doubts the accuracy of the statements made in the *Prajabandhu*, and regrets that such serious allegations should have been made against a gentleman who distinguished himself by presiding over the deliberations of the Utkal Union Conference.

UTKALDIPIKA.

112. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th March states that the

An injudicious act of the Principal, Berhampur College, Ganjam.

Principal of the Berhampur Khalikote College has asked the Uriya students attending that institution to pay the full fees, though an order of the Madras Government allows them to pay only half fees. The Ganjam students are backward in education and the Madras Government granted them the privilege for their encouragement. It is questionable on the part of the Principal of a College to go against the policy of the Government, when that policy is admittedly benevolent in its nature and scope. It is a known fact that the backward races in India like the Muhammadans need some encouragement at the hands of the paternal Government.

UTKALDIPIKA,

113. Referring to the speech, which Lord Curzon delivered recently in

Famine and the economic condition of the people of India.

England, extolling the virtues and efficacy of the Famine Regulations which His Lordship had framed with great industry while he was in India, the same paper observes that the economic condition of the Indians is so bad that the slightest increase in the prices of the food-stuffs of the country brings about a famine whose effects are simply dreadful to contemplate. So long as the tax on land is not reduced and the tax on salt is not abolished, no perceptible improvement can be visible in the condition of the Indians. It is true that the Government spends a good sum on famine relief, but it is more wise and statesman-like to prevent a famine, than to try to soften its rigour after its appearance among the people. It is a pity that the Government has not as yet understood the force of the above reasoning.

GARJATBASINI,
March 9th, 1907.

114. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 9th March regrets to note that

A standard weight and a standard measure for Talcher, Dhenkanal and Angul.

the weights and measures in force and circulation in the States of Talcher, Dhenkanal and Angul are not uniform. This introduces stumbling-blocks in the free course of internal trade, which is much depressed thereby. A standard weight and standard measure should be adopted in all these States without the least delay. The attention of the authorities concerned is drawn to the matter at once.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
March 6th, 1907.

115. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 6th March strongly

An injudicious action on the part of the Puri temple authorities.

objects to the action of the Puri temple authorities who have postponed the dates of the *Doljatra* with insufficient or little notice. This action on the part of the temple servants has put a large number of pilgrims to the greatest inconvenience imaginable. The adjournment of the dates should have been widely circulated throughout Hindu India.

UTKALDIPIKA,
March 9th, 1907.

116. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th March states that the Raja of Athgarh has agreed to pay an annual subscription of Rs. 500 towards the Famine Relief Fund in India.

The liberality of the Raja of Athgarh.

GARJATBASINI,
March 9th, 1907.

117. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 9th March states that Babu

Liberality of Babu Baidyanath Misra.

Baidyanath Misra, a Deputy Magistrate of Angul, has agreed to bear the cost of the publication of a book named *Moksha Bhagabat*, written by Babu Balkrishna Das, a native of Angul. This liberality on the part of Babu Baidyanath Misra is highly spoken of.

UTKALDIPIKA,
March 9th, 1907.

118. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th March publishes a letter

An apology on behalf of the Mayurbhanj administration.

from Babu Gobinda Chandra Mahapatra, the State Collector of Mayurbhanj, in which it is stated that the administration of Mayurbhanj is being carried on smoothly and successfully under the supervision of the Maharaja, aided by a galaxy of able and talented officers. The economic condition of

the people is all that can be desired under existing circumstances. The only parties that are dissatisfied are—(1) those who purchase their eatables and food-stuffs from the bazar and do not produce any corn; and (2) those who want to enter the public service of Mayurbhanj with little or no education. The correspondent points out that it is beyond the powers of anybody in Mayurbhanj to satisfy these complaining classes of people.

119. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 6th March states that

Effect of export, and the increased cultivation of jute on the economic condition of the Balasore people.

the constant export of rice and paddy from Balasore is reducing the stock of food-stuffs necessary for the maintenance of the people in that district.

This is dangerous from an economical point of view.

The effect of this state of things is heightened by the greater attention which the agriculturists of that district pay to the cultivation of jute than to that of paddy, for in seasons of distress no amount of ready money can save the people when food-stuffs are not within easy reach.

120. The same paper states that cholera has broken out in certain parts of the Balasore town, and that the District and Municipal authorities are doing their best to arrest its progress.

Cholera in Balasore.

121. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th March states that a hosiery has been established at Cuttack through the exertions of Babu Hemendra Nath Rai, the common

A hosiery in Cuttack.

Manager of Bhingarapur Estate, and observes that the institution has proved a complete success. Such an undertaking deserves encouragement in the interest of local industry.

The weather in Cuttack.

122. The same paper states that the sky was clear in the last week, and that the days were warm and the nights cold.

123. In referring to the Balasore Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition,

The Balasore Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition attacked.

which was to take place on the 15th instant, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 6th March observes that the Exhibition is more a show than

anything else, for the Committee in charge of the Exhibition want to spend a large sum on the theatrical and bioscopic performances, which have nothing to do either with agriculture or industry. This is simply squandering away public money.

124. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th March is sorry to note that houses are being burnt down almost every day in

Frequent fires in Cuttack.

Cuttack, and that the Magisterial and the Police staff find it difficult to trace the causes of these frequent fires. The writer therefore advises the residents of *kutchra* houses in Cuttack to be more careful in the future, and the Cuttack Municipality to be more diligent in extinguishing fires when they do occur.

125. The Sankhatras correspondent of the same paper states that forty houses were consumed by a great fire in mauza Tala Usama in that part of the Cuttack district.

A fire in Sankhatras.

126. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 6th March states that a ferocious tiger has killed about seven persons in the Nilgiri State. Its depredations have simply

A man-eater in Nilgiri.

terrified the people of Nilgiri. The writer hopes the Government Agent stationed at Nilgiri will do something substantial to relieve the people from this fearful tiger-scare.

127. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th March gives an account of the proceedings of a meeting held in the premises of the Cuttack Model Girls' School, under the presi-

The Cuttack Model Girls' School.

dency of Mr. Greer, C.S.I., Commissioner of Orissa Division, to give away prizes to the deserving pupils of that institution. The prizes were distributed by Mrs. Greer, whose presence contributed to the success of the proceedings in question. From the report of Mrs. Reba Rai, the Lady Superintendent of the school, it was clear that the number of students attending the school increased from seven to forty-five within one year, which was no doubt very creditable to the school management. It was a matter of pleasure to note that the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj, Mr. M. S. Das, C.I.E., Rai Jogeswar

URIYA AND
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NAVASAMVAD.

UTKALDIPIKA,
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UTKALDIPIKA,
March 9th, 1907.

Chandra Bahadur, and Babus Janaki Nath Bose, Sudam Chandra Naik and Moodhusudan Rao made donations to the school fund on a liberal scale. The President was pleased with the progress that the school had made within the short period of one year, and hoped that Government would be ready to help Mrs. Reba Rai, if she applied for a grant-in-aid. The proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks being proposed, seconded and passed for Mrs. and Mr. Greer. The presence of a Muhammadan girl in the school was very encouraging, as the Muhammadans are very unwilling to send their girls to public schools. The only defect noticeable was that the number of Uriya girls was very small, almost all the girls being Bengalis. Perhaps the teaching of Music and English in the school has prevented the Uriya girls from joining it, while, on the other hand, that very teaching has induced many Bengali girls to leave the Ravenshaw Girls' School and join this institution.

BIDHUBHUSHAN MUKERJEA,

First Asst. to the Bengali Translator, in charge.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 23rd March, 1907.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

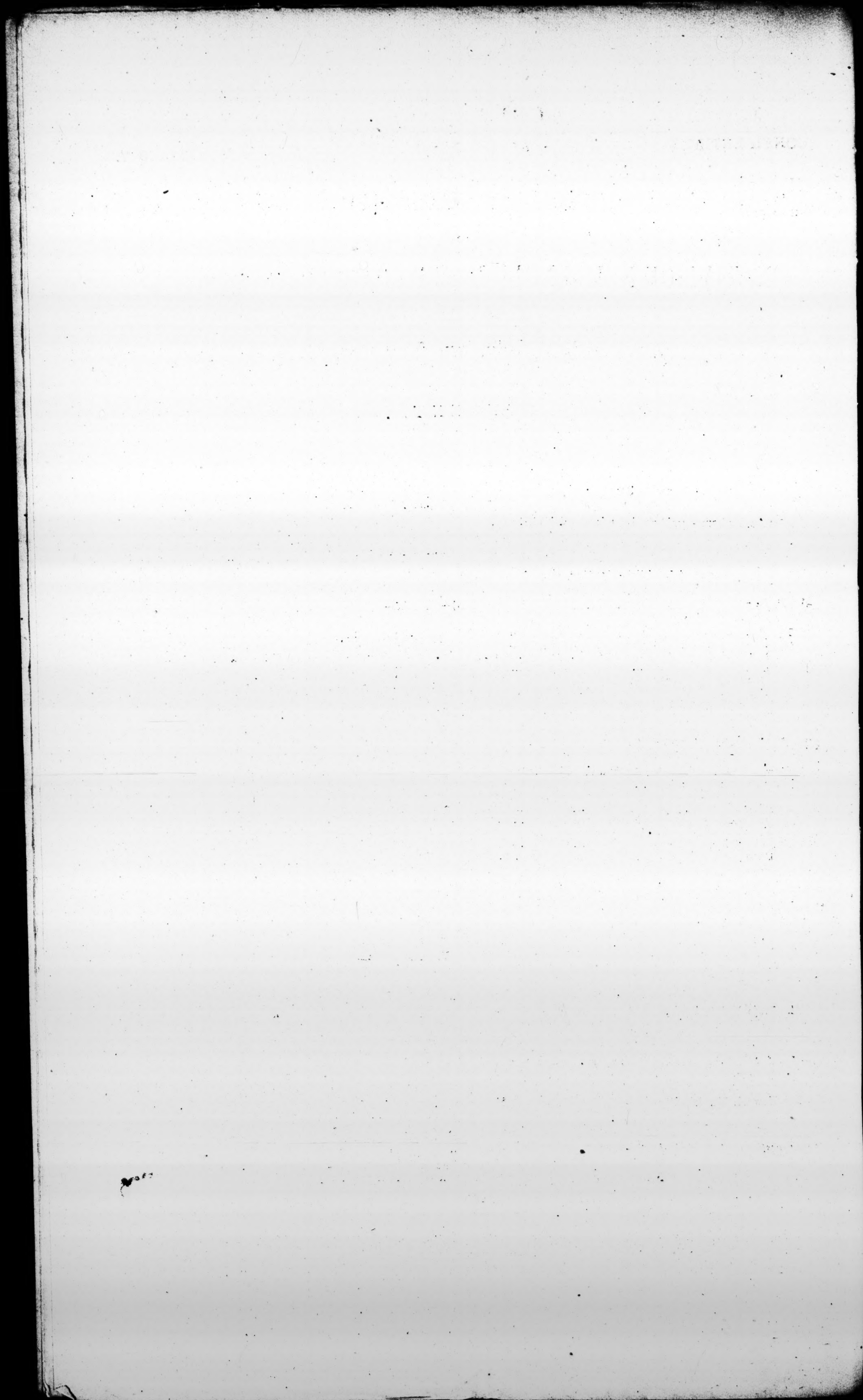
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 23rd March 1907.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

271. The *Indian Mirror* is alarmed at the present situation in Afghanistan, and would not be surprised to hear of border raids and disturbances brought about by the intriguing Mullahs. A great deal of mischief is apprehended from these Mullahs, as they have always taken a leading part in the civil and foreign wars of the country, and are not likely to surrender their authority without a strenuous fight. It is hoped that His Majesty the Amir will be equal to the occasion.

INDIAN MIRROR,
17th March 1907.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

272. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* regrets to find that the official reports of the Comilla disturbances contain no acknowledgment of the forbearing and law-abiding spirit of the Hindus. The journal does not blame the Musalmans, who were merely encouraged to attack the Hindus and loot their shops by the strange sympathy shown them by the local authorities. The death which occurred is lamentable, but considering that the town was in the hands of the mob for two or three days, there is every reason to be thankful that nothing worse happened.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
15th March 1907.

273. *Bande Mataram* characterises the official version of the Comilla incident as a "most amazingly unskilful production over which suppression of truth and suggestion of falsehood are clearly written." It presents a picture of wanton and murderous Hindu violence, comparative Muhammadan moderation and fatherly British care over its irreconcilably quarrelsome step-children. In analysing and exposing the ridiculousness of this account, the journal describes it as the production of a partisan in a political fight who looks upon the anti-*swadeshi* Muhammadans as allies "enlisted" on the side of bureaucracy. The Comilla nationalists are advised to avoid the usual mistake of instituting cases and counter-cases, and to rest satisfied with publishing their version together with the evidence of the persons assaulted. The time is now past, in Eastern Bengal at least, when appeal to the British Courts can be either a remedy or a solace.

BANDE MATARAM,
15th March 1907.

274. The *Musalman* takes an impartial view of the Comilla affair, and blames both the local Hindu students for their insulting behaviour towards the Nabalong, much in consequence of his pro-partition zeal, and the Muhammadans for their indiscriminate looting of Hindu shops and assault on Hindu gentlemen. The journal supports Babu Bepin Chandra Pal's suggestion to appoint a non-official Commission to enquire into the matter on the spot.

MUSALMAN,
15th March 1907.

275. In reviewing the situation at Comilla as described by its local correspondent, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* comments very strongly on the conduct of the District Magistrate and Police Superintendent in refusing to protect the Hindus, and even mocking them for seeking help from the authorities. Such conduct does not enhance the reputation of British rule, and compares very unfavourably with that of the Bengalis who risked their lives to save Englishmen and women during the mutiny. The fact that the Musalman procession was allowed to be out without a license, and rowdies were permitted to roam about the town after dark, shows how careless and apathetic the authorities really were.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
15th March 1907.

276. The *Indian Mirror* is grateful to the *Statesman* for getting at the real truth of the Comilla episode. The culpable indifference and manifest incapacity of the local authorities call for very serious notice from the Government.

INDIAN MIRROR,
15th March 1907.

The journal exhorts the Hindus and Muhammadans to always display tolerance and good feeling, and warns the followers of the new school to desist from preaching a policy of racial hatred and intolerance.

BANDE MATARAM,
20th March 1907.

277. *Bande Mataram* condemns the action of the *Bengalee*, the *Indian Mirror* and the *Hindoo Patriot* in rejecting the statements of their correspondents, and accepting that of the *Statesman* with regard to the Comilla disturbances. It finds that the loyalists of the country, through the influence of a denationalizing education or in self-interest, have joined the enemy's camp and are thus emulating Lord Macaulay in his opinion of the veracity of the Hindus. They display very little confidence in those whom they seek to lead and guide.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BEHAR HERALD,
16th March 1907.

278. The *Behar Herald* takes the High Court to task for supporting the action of Mr. Perrot, the Subdivisional Magistrate of Begusarai, in the Monghyr district, in the following case:—On the 22nd December last Mr. Perrot sat on the bench till 8 p.m., and then called on the pleaders and mukhtears appearing in a certain case under section 144, Indian Penal Code, to proceed with the case. On their expressing their inability to do so at such a late hour, and asking for a postponement, Mr. Perrot dealt with the case independently, and passed judgment on the 24th December—a public holiday. It is regrettable to find the whims and caprices of young Magistrates who are responsible for causing great suffering to lawyers, tolerated by High Court Judges. It is hoped the Chief Justice will put a stop to the repetition of such occurrences.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
19th March 1907.

279. The action of the Government in allowing the conviction against the Punjabee to stand on appeal, will, in the opinion of the *Hindoo Patriot*, intensify the anti-European feeling by impressing on all educated Indians the fact that there is one law for themselves and another for the whites and semi-whites. The Punjab may now be expected to emulate Bengal in raising its head, but the authorities do not seem to mind the extent of the trouble they are bringing on themselves.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th March 1907.

280. To the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the "ferocious" treatment accorded to the editor and the proprietor of the *Punjabee* shows how patriots fare under the enlightened rule of England in India. Nothing short of rigorous imprisonment was considered adequate. The two gentlemen should console themselves with the knowledge that they have the sympathy of the whole of India, and that their sufferings are necessary for the salvation of a fallen nation.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
20th March 1907.

281. Referring to the case of Magisterial vagary which occurred in the Tangail Subdivision of Mymensingh, the *Hindoo Patriot* condemns the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer and the local Police for arresting, on a charge of dacoity, one Alep Pramanik, keeping him in *hajut* for 9 months, without either recording any evidence or taking steps to bring him to trial. The man was liberated through the accidental visit of the District and Sessions Judge to the jail, but no sooner was he released, then he was again arrested by the Police and tried successively under sections 412, Indian Penal Code, and 110, Criminal Procedure Code. An appeal to the High Court secured his release, and in their judgment their Lordships condemned the action of the Lower Court in unjustifiably proceeding against the accused under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code. The Government should recompense the innocent man for the oppression to which he has been unnecessarily subjected.

BENGALÉE,
21st March 1907.

282. The *Bengalee* condemns, as monstrous the sentence of three months' rigorous imprisonment passed by Mr. Dunlop, Joint-Magistrate of Dacca, upon the two zamindars in the Dacca deer stealing case.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st March 1907.

283. The wrong perpetrated by the conviction of two highly respectable zamindars of Dacca for the alleged purposeless offence of stealing a deer for a few hours is likened by the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* to the injury done by the incarceration of the conductors of the *Punjabee*. Such acts rouse the worst passions, and create deep discontent throughout the land. They also result in the loss of all confidence in the impartial administration of British justice in India.

284. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is of opinion that the case in which Mr. Justice Chitty of the High Court was instrumental in causing the death of a plaintiff, by rejecting a medical certificate of serious ill-health and insisting on his personal appearance in Court, should serve as a terrible lesson to him as well as all other Judges. Many of them grow dead to finer feelings, and by their heartlessness and want of sympathy cause great suffering to their fellow-beings, whom they come to regard as cattle. Mr. Justice Strachey's sentence on Mr. Tilak was another instance of the kind, and it was a pure accident the man did not die in jail. It is hoped that ample compensation will be given to the bereaved family of the deceased.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st March 1907.

High Court fatality.

285. The *Bengalee* does not share in the indignation against, nor does it blame Mr. Justice Chitty for rejecting Prem Lal Mullick's application, but blames the young man's father-in-law for opposing the application.

BENGALIEE,
22nd March 1907.

Ibid.

father-in-law for opposing the application.

(d)—Education.

286. The endeavour which is being made to disable the Braja Mohan Institution is ascribed by *Bande Mataram* to the fact that it is a standing protest against the assertion that such institutions, when founded and managed by Indians, are ill-managed and kept up for private gain. Its success as the premier educational institution in East Bengal is due entirely to Babu Aswini Kumar Dutt, and this fact combined with his *swadeshi* tendency has made him obnoxious to the official world. The people, however, know their interests, and will remain loyal to the institution which will in time develop a system of truly national education.

BANDE MATARAM,
15th March 1907.

The Braja Mohan Institution.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

287. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains of the conduct of Mr. Forrest, the District Magistrate, who as head of the police and executive, as well as of the Municipality and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, has spread consternation in Howrah. As Chairman of the Municipality, he has behaved scandalously by ignoring and trampling upon the interests of rate-payers by increasing the salaries of three of his proteges,—the Engineer and Assessor, the Secretary and the Assistant Engineer,—while refusing to attend to various urgent needs on the ground of want of funds. Howrah will, by reason of its increased income this year, head the list of Municipalities in India; but instead of attention being given to the legitimate section of Municipal work, the official Chairman spends its large income on an extensive and highly paid establishment, and on fads and luxuries which the people would never tolerate if they really had any voice in the disbursement of their money.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th March 1907.

The Howrah Municipality.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

288. The *Indian Empire* contrasts the treatment accorded to native railway passengers in India with that which according to the special correspondent of the *Times of India* natives of Russian-Turkistan receive in Russia. The Russian railway regulations enjoin civility to native travellers and provide for their comforts, but in this country the native passengers are treated like cattle, and frequently insulted and even assaulted by their white fellow-passengers and railway staff.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
19th March 1907.

Treatment of "natives" by Russians.

289. Commending upon the "Barak" disaster, the *Bengalee* asks if it is true that the steamer was plying without a serang, and was in charge of an inexperienced and incompetent crew. The official report is silent on this important point. The journal impugns the accuracy of the official version of the occurrence, and alleges that no railway official appeared on the scene till two days after the accident, and the Port-officer did not begin his enquiry before the expiry of four days.

BENGALIEE,
21st March 1907.

The Barak disaster.

(h)—General.

NEW INDIA,
16th March 1907.

290. *New India* holds the Government responsible for the Comilla riots, and ascribes them to the desire to suppress national patriotism. At Barisal it was sought to impress

Barisal and Comilla.

the people with their helplessness, but realising their failure, the Government tried at Comilla to prove how incapable the people were to protect themselves against the stronger sections of their own community. The latter policy was betrayed by the Comilla Magistrate, who taunted the Hindus with their helplessness, forgetful of the fact that this was the result of the emasculating and enervating policy of the British. It is hoped that the Government have now recognised their folly. The poor misguided Muhammadans will be reduced to perpetual penury by being boycotted by the Hindus, and driven by hunger they will turn against the Government.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
18th March 1907.

291. The action of Lord Minto in granting a formal interview to a deputation of Indian gentlemen in connection with the Comilla disturbance is commented on approvingly by the *Hindoo Patriot*, which considers that such an example should be widely followed. Matters would improve much sooner and more easily if the head of the Government and representatives of the public would occasionally meet at friendly conferences and discuss questions affecting large interests.

The deputation to Lord Minto regarding the Comilla riots.

BANDE MATARAM,
19th March 1907.

292. *Bande Mataram* writes in scathing terms of the conduct of the leaders in Calcutta in marring the effect of the Comilla disturbances by again resorting to mendicancy. The journal brands them as cowards and unbelievers, and considers that their action indicates such a sad state of helplessness and servility as to be quite undeserving of sympathy. By running to Government House on the least sign of trouble, they bring the whole country into contempt and prove their unfitness for even the "reasonable demands" they put forward.

Ibid.

BENGALÉE,
19th March 1907

293. The *Bengalée* refers to the proposal to hold a Moslem Conference at the Zilla School at Barisal during the ensuing Easter holidays, and is of opinion that if the conference is to be a political demonstration, the Government should have no hesitation in refusing to sanction the use of the school. The anti-partitionists, although independent of official help, are resolved not to submit to the local officials taking sides in the partition agitation.

A Moslem Conference at Barisal.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
19th March 1907.

294. The *Indian Empire* views with regret the serious situation which the Hindu-Mussalman question in East Bengal is assuming, and attributes it to the misguided efforts of some Muhammadans, egged by certain officials who are either "fools or knaves." Nawab Salimulla is doing his best to inflame the worst passions of the Muhammadans against the Hindus; but although this may prove an easy task, it will be extremely difficult to control both communities if they engage in a life and death struggle. If the flame of hatred is once kindled, it will soon envelop the whole of India, and destroy even the mighty British Government.

The Hindu-Mussalman question in East Bengal.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
20th March 1907.

295. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws attention to the way in which the numerous recent vacancies in the newly sanctioned cadre for the Provincial Service have been filled. The Hon'ble Mr. Carlyle has done a grave injustice to a number of very deserving officers, with the sole object of providing for several of his protégés. In the cause of justice and fairness His Honour should make whatever reparation he can, and thus help to allay the prevailing discontent.

Appointments in the Provincial Service.

III.—LEGISLATION.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
18th March 1907.

296. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* urges the Government to postpone for a year the passing of the Local Self-Government Bill, so as to give the people sufficient time to study and criticize it. The Hon'ble Mr. Carlyle is not justified in rushing the measure, and His Honour should not take the odium of passing the Bill in such indecent haste.

The Local Self-Government Bill.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS, AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

297. The plea urged by the Assam Branch of the Indian Tea Association in favour of restricting the exportation of food-stuffs from the Valley is strongly supported by *Bande Mataram*, for instead of being self-supporting, the Valley is becoming more and more dependent on imports. If this tendency is not checked, it is likely to soon lead to great scarcity; and if the Government will not go against the interests of capitalists for the benefit of India, the people should associate and work out their own salvation.

BANDE MATARAM,
16th March 1907.

298. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* accuses the governing authorities of being apathetic and heartless in not paying serious attention to the work of destruction wrought by cholera and malaria in Bengal. They are forced to admit that statistics point to the threatened extinction of the nation; but, notwithstanding this, the rulers will not take the necessary steps to avert it. The main causes of the two fell diseases are well known, but instead of removing them everything is done to aggravate them.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th March 1907.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

299. The *Beharee* advocates the grant of another "step in the peerage" to the Maharaja of Darbhanga. He has long deserved it, and the Government's action in withholding the honour is inexplicable. It is hoped that this neglect has been unintentional, and that ample amends will soon be made for it.

BEHAREE,
15th March 1907.

300. The *Hindoo Patriot* ascribes India's poverty to the ignorance, prejudice and want of enterprise on the part of her people. Instead of leaning on State support, the people should imbibe the spirit of self-help and take lessons from the Americans how to progress in the keen competition of the present day. The nation should realise the value of industries, and not merely work on account of necessity.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
15th March 1907.

301. The *Indian Mirror* considers the establishment of a club for Indians and Europeans to be very desirable, as it will help to promote friendly feelings between the two communities by bringing them socially together. It is very cheering to find that several high European officials, including His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, are taking a keen interest in the matter, and as the scheme has been so well received by men of standing and influence in both communities, it should be given effect to without delay.

INDIAN MIRROR,
16th March 1907.

302. Under the marginally-noted heading, *Bande Mataram* writes a lengthy article pointing out the futility of Indians counting on the protection of the British, who should be regarded as their natural adversaries.

BANDE MATARAM,
16th March 1907.

The people are urged instead to abandon the custom of appealing to the authorities, and to train themselves in physical strength and courage so as to acquire the habit of rising immediately and boldly to the height of even the greatest emergency. They will thus be able to protect themselves from individual oppression, and be in a position to organize for purposes of national defence, thus defying Comilla tumults or official Gurkha riots. The present system of training should be abandoned in favour of the physical and moral education of the old Indian Kshatriyas or the Japanese Samurai.

303. In an article under the marginally-noted heading, the *Beharee* dismisses as unattainable the ideal of a united Indian nation, and advises the adoption of its principle—"Behar for the Beharees" and the formation of a federation of Indian nations. It disregards the condemnation of these views by the Bengali papers, and urges the educated Beharis to join hands and strive hard to attain the desired goal.

BEHAREE,
19th March 1907.

304. The *Bengalee* warns the Government against the proposed subsidy to Nawab Salimulla which will be regarded by the public as a tangible and definite expression of the sympathy of the Government with the pro-partition agitation. Moreover the

BENGALEE,
19th March 1907.

Bengalee learns that as the Nawab's own share of property will not be sufficient security for the loan to be advanced, the Government will be obliged to appoint a common manager for the whole property, which will result in hardship to the Nawab's co-sharers who are in no way responsible for the management of the property being taken out of their hands.

BENGALAH.
20th March 1907.

305. The *Bengalee* writes that the workmen employed in the Budge-Budge Jute Mills have to work from 5 A.M. to 8 P.M., "with a respite of three hours for meals and rest for one hour," and that among the mill hands there are no less than 500 boys of tender ages, some of whom are mere skeletons, and to look at them is to be convinced of the inhuman cruelty of keeping them at work for such long hours.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 23rd March 1907.

F. C. DALY,
Persl. Asst. to the Insp. Genl. of Police, L. P.